

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Aquatic Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

March 27, 2009

Board of Land
and Natural Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO AMEND A PROJECT AGREEMENT (CONTRACT NO. 48518) WITH THE RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII FOR THE HAWAII MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHING SURVEY BY PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL \$571,550 IN FUNDING (\$467,475 FEDERAL FUNDS AND \$104,075 SPECIAL FUNDS) AND EXTEND THE PROJECT THROUGH JUNE 30, 2010

Submitted herewith for your consideration is a request to amend/extend an existing project Agreement between the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH). Amendment No. 9 will add funding and allow continuation of the project from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. Amendment No. 9 provides \$467,475 in federal funds and \$104,075 in LNR 153 Commercial Fisheries Special Funds. Federal funding is being provided by both the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (\$294,975) and the Department of Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (\$172,500). The State Special Funds are being used to provide the required State matching component for both grants. Extension of the contract will allow continuation of RCUH's services in implementing the project. RCUH's assistance is required in order for the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to meet project goals and objectives in a timely way.

The recreational fishing survey project, which began in 2001, includes fisheries research activities that support DAR's mission in the management of Hawaii's fishery resources. Although the project includes components relevant to all of DAR's programs, its main purpose is to conduct surveys and collect recreational fish catch data. This data will in turn be used to determine effort of private boats and shoreline fishing modes. Direct intercept surveys with shoreline and recreational boat fishermen will be conducted statewide with the following data being collected: catch, effort, species, gear type methods, disposition of catches or releases, and demographic information of the angler. The survey data is then processed and converted into baseline data to reflect the amount of fishing pressure exerted on the marine resources, i.e. the amount of resources being taken and the rate of removal of these same resources. Ultimately, all the data will be used for fishery management and/or conservation measures.

This project is a long-term monitoring project, and extension is required because only the procurement of long-term data sets will result in meaningful analysis that will facilitate sound management decisions. Generally, fish stock monitoring requires at least 5-10 years of data collection before trends in harvest and effort can be detected.

Approval to amend/extend the Project Agreement is being requested concurrently from the Governor, through the Department of Budget and Finance for review and approval. Also, the amendment to the Project Agreements has been submitted to the Attorney General's Office for preliminary approval as to form. Furthermore, due to the uncertainty of the State's fiscal situation, we are aware that all approvals are dependent upon the availability of funds and that funding restrictions may occur at any time.

RECOMMENDATION:

"That the Board authorize the Chairperson to negotiate and, subject to necessary approvals, amend/extend a Project Agreement (Contract No. 48518) with the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii for FY 10."

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Polhemus', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

DAN POLHEMUS
Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Thielen', with a large, stylized initial 'L'.

LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson